

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 7, and 9-18 are amended and claims 19 and 20 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Support for the amendments to claims 3 and 12 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 6-20. Claims 1-4, 7, and 9-18 are amended for form. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiners Park and Bali at the interview held November 5, 2007 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The title is objected to as not being adequately descriptive. Applicants have amended the title to "Rotational Image Generation Method, Program, and Information Storage Medium and Virtual Camera," as suggested by the Examiners during the personal interview, to obviate the objection (emphasis added). Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 10-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 10-18 to recite "[a] computer readable medium embedded with a program," as suggested by the Examiners at the personal interview. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Mukoyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,831,659) in view of Bothey (C Magazine: Speed-Up Techniques and Thinking Routine for 3D Game Found Source Code of a 3D Game). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mukoyama and Bothey, alone or in a permissible combination, do not teach or suggest every claimed feature of independent claims 1 and 10. As argued during the personal

interview, Mukoyama and Bothey do not teach or suggest "a plurality of part objects each of which has a projection shape, each of the part objects having a projecting portion formed on a display surface on which an image is drawn," as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 10 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that Mukoyama discloses this feature in Fig. 15. However, Fig. 15 merely discloses a plane at which an image is drawn without any portion projecting therefrom. Further, Fig. 16 clarifies that the image is a projection of a two-dimensional picture. Thus, Mukoyama does not disclose part objects that have a projecting portion formed on a display surface, as recited in independent claims 1 and 10.

Bothey does not remedy the deficiencies of Mukoyama. Bothey is cited by the Office Action merely for its alleged disclosure of "Billboarding," an image display technique that displays a two dimensional picture with shading and depth to make the picture appear three-dimensional.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, claims 1 and 10 are patentable over Mukoyama and Bothey. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 2-9 and 11-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mukoyama in view of Bothey and in further view of Nakagawa (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0135603). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mukoyama, Bothey and Nakagawa, alone or in permissible combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed features of independent claims 3 and 12. Mukoyama, Bothey and Nakagawa do not teach or suggest "mapping on each of the part objects the Z texture for forming a virtual projection shape on the display surface of the part objects by pixel unit," as recited in independent claim 3 and as similarly recited in claim 12 (emphasis added).

The Office Action acknowledges that Mukoyama and Bothey do not teach the "storing of a Z texture" and "mapping the Z texture." Further, Nakagawa does not remedy Mukoyama and Bothey's deficiencies.

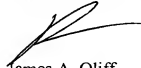
The Office Action asserts that Nakagawa teaches "mapping" at paragraph [0139]. However, Nakagawa merely relates to three dimensional texture mapping and does not teach the conversion of such texture mapping to two dimensions (i.e. "by pixel unit," as recited in claims 3 and 12). For example, Nakagawa discloses at paragraph [0139] "[t]he drawing processor 910 can also perform ... tri-linear filtering ..." (emphasis added). Applicants respectfully submit that such tri-linear filtering cannot be performed with a two-dimensional pixel image, but can only be formed in three dimensions. Therefore, the alleged combination of Mukoyama, Bothey, and Nakagawa do not teach or suggest the claimed features of independent claims 3 and 12.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 3 and 12 are patentable over the alleged combination of Mukoyama, Bothey, and Nakagawa. Claims 2, 4-9 and 11-18, which variously depend from independent claims 1, 3, 10 and 12, are also patentable for at least their dependency on the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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